



MYSORE DIOCESAN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY®
ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE (Autonomous), MYSORE
Affiliated to the University of Mysore
Reaccredited by the NAAC with B++grade
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Minutes of the 13th Governing Body Meeting held on 22th March 2024

Time: 10.30 am. Venue: Board Room, PG Block, 2nd Floor

The following members were present:

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Msgr. Alfred John Mendonca Vicar General & Vice President of MDES	Chairman's Representative Member
2	Rev. Dr. Bernard Prakash Barnis Rector, St. Philomena's Educational Institutions , Mysuru	Member
3	Prof. N. S Rame Gowda Former Vice Chancellor, KSOU	Management Nominee
4	Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas, Director, Centre for Education Beyond Curriculum (CEDBEC), Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru	Management Nominee
5	Dr. Ravi J D Saldanha, Principal St. Philomena's College (Autonomous)	Member Secretary

6	Mr. Nagaraj Urs M. Vice Principal (Academic) and Dean of Academic affairs	Member
7	Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha Librarian & Vice Principal (Administration)	Member
8	Prof. Othbert Pinto, Director, Post Graduate Studies and Research Centre	Member
9	Mr. A. Thomas Gunaseelan, Associate Professor of Physics and IQAC coordinator	Member

The following members were absent:

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Most. Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras President, Mysore Diocesan Educational Society Mysore	Chairman
2	Rev. Fr. Vijay Kumar Secretary, MDES	Member
3	Rev. Fr. Madalai Muthu, Treasurer, MDES	Member
4	Dr. Vijayalaxmi A H M Regional Joint Director for Collegiate Education, Mysuru	Member (State Govt.Nominee)
5	Prof. Anand D University of Mysore Nominee	Member (University Nominee)

Msgr. Alfred John Mendonca, Vicar General of Mysore Diocese and Vice President of MDES chaired the meeting and initiated the proceedings with a prayer. The Principal, Dr. Ravi J D Saldanha introduced and welcomed the esteemed members.

The following agenda was taken up for discussion and approval:

Agenda 1: Approval of the minutes of the 12th Governing Body held on 31/03/2023.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda, Former Vice Chancellor, KSOU expressed concern over the acceptance of the NEP-2020 curriculum framed by KSHEC which is approved by the University of Mysore. He pointed out that this approach contradicts the concept academic autonomy granted to higher education institutions by the UGC and would eventually affect the credibility of autonomous institutions to develop, implement and revise their curriculum considering the evolving societal and job sector demands. Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas, Director, Centre for Education beyond Curriculum, Christ Deemed to be University shared similar observations and added that restrictions imposed by the University on curricular aspects needs to be addressed with high priority and a representation on the same need to be sent to UGC for its consultation and review.

Prof. Othbert Pinto, Director, Post Graduate Studies and Research Centre informed that the institution is restricted to modify the content of the Disciple Specific Courses (DSC) offered under NEP-2020 during the first year of its implementation. However, revision is done in the following years as per the regulations of University of Mysore which demands the retaining the titles of the DSC and provides the provision to introduce new Open Elective papers. Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha, Vice Principal (Administration) informed that the college is imposed to pay annual fees by the parent University regardless of clear regulations of UGC on onetime payment of fees and the lack of funding from UGC is adding to the woes. He stated that the college had exercised complete academic autonomy prior to NEP implementation. Mr. Nagaraj Urs. M, Vice Principal (Academics) and Academic Dean mentioned that the transfer of credits when students seek change of admission between institutions and universities has created ambiguity on the change of titles for DSC.

The approval of the minutes of 12th Governing body was proposed by Prof. N. S Rame Gowda and seconded by Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas.

Decision: Approved

Agenda -2. Review of the functioning of the college for the academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Dr. Ravi J D Saldanha updated the academic and administrative profile of the college for the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 with details of programmes offered, student admissions, pass percentages, staff strength, major achievements, events conducted and infrastructure expansions.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda inquired about the demand ratio of the programmes offered by the institution and the nature of student progression. He stressed the importance of strengthening the placement cell to enhance employability through connecting students to potential employers, organizing career guidance and training sessions and establishing a strong alumni network. Prof. Othbert Pinto voiced the challenges faced during PG admission with respect to filling the seats under University quota.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda opined that restrictions imposed by the University on matters such as admissions and providing Ph.D guideship to faculty in autonomous colleges should be objected collectively by such institutions.

Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas suggested that a well-planned strategic approach through improving networking, advertising and collaborating with industry and foreign embassies is required to maintain good student strength for all programmes. Pre-admitting students considering their previous academic records and confirming their admissions after they fulfill the eligibility criteria can help in filling up the existing seats. He added that ensuring remarkable placement statistics is important and would contribute in augmenting the reputation and the brand value of the institution.

Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha mentioned that the administration is focusing on revamping the HR policy aligning with institutions' goals to address the issue of faculty retention which is mainly due low salary package. Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas proposed that increasing the fees for programmes having high demand can help in supporting the salary expenses, professional development activities and other welfare schemes for the staff. He added that institution can effectively conduct value added courses in blended or online mode to increase revenue while providing valuable learning opportunities for the participants and additional remuneration for the faculty engaging these classes. Dr. Ravi J D Saldanha informed that the Skill Development Centre of the college has offered 120 value added courses in the academic year 2022-23. Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha added that the college has been offering revenue generating courses on areas such as Sports Analytics.

Further, elaborating the topic, Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas said that it is inevitable for higher education institutes to put efforts towards improving ranking in NAAC and NIRF for increased funding opportunities. In this direction, it's important for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of an institution to be updated with the latest NAAC reforms for maintaining accreditation standards and improving institutional quality. He mentioned that promoting research is undoubtedly crucial for the professional growth of teachers and ultimately overall growth of the institution.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda stated that merit and performance based increments are vital in empowering the faculty. Providing incentives for teachers who develop content on SWAYAM and MOOCs would be rewarding for their efforts. He appreciated the college for its continuous involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities which helps in the holistic development of the students.

Decision: Approved

Agenda -3. Ratification of the following decisions taken in the Academic Council in its meeting held on 10/11/2023.

- a) *To incorporate 30% modification in the NEP-2020 curriculum for III and IV semesters and the revised question paper templates approved in the respective BOS meetings of the College for the academic year 2023-24 for the UG Programme.*
- b) *To introduce the NEP-2020 Curriculum without modifications for V and VI semesters forwarded by the University of Mysore, approved in the respective BOS of the College for the UG Programmes.*
- c) *To introduce the following new Open Elective courses for UG Programmes :*
 - i. *Environmental Chemistry*
 - ii. *Water quality and its treatment*

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda reasserted the need to ensure autonomy on matters pertaining to curriculum development and revision.

Decision: Approved

Agenda 4: Ratification of the introduction of new courses in BA and B.Sc Programmes approved by the University of Mysore for the academic year 2023-24.

a) BA Programme: New Courses

- 1) *Visual media*
- 2) *Education*

b) B.Sc. Programme: New Courses

- 1) *Criminology and Forensic Science*
- 2) *Environmental Science*
- 3) *Data Science*
- 4) *Statistics*

Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas suggested the scope of starting integrated programmes which provides students with a broader range of skills and knowledge than conventional programmes. He said that college should consider proposals for PG programmes like MA Culture and Society and MA Education which have gained demand in the recent years. He insisted on getting more clarity on the new standards set by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP).

Decision: Approved

Agenda 5: Starting of the new programmes and courses which are approved by the University of Mysore for the academic year 2024-25:

a) New PG Programmes

- 1) MA Kannada
- 2) MA Hindi
- 3) M.Sc. Food Science and Nutrition

b) BA Programme: New Courses

- 1) Optional Kannada

c) B.Sc. Programme: New Courses

- 1) Education

Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas highlighted the growing demand for Actuarial-Science related courses worldwide as it's highly sought after for recruitments to insurance companies, government agencies, and financial institutions. The query raised by Prof. N. S Rame Gowda about Optional Kannada course was addressed by Mr. Nagaraj Urs. M and Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha with the clarification that Optional Kannada focusing on Literature will be among one of the two main subjects, apart from ability enhanced courses.

Decision: Approved

Agenda 6: Ratifications of the audited income and expenditure statements of Government, UGC, and Management accounts approved in the finance committee meeting held on 20/03/2024.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda sought a briefing on the UGC grants. Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha explained that the college has been receiving autonomous grant of Rs 20 lakhs annually from UGC since 2011 till 2022. He mentioned that Rs 8 lakhs under the grant for 2022-23 is due and further no grants are received since 2023. Additionally, the institution has received Rs. 1crore for the period 2010-2015 under College with Potential for Excellence scheme and subsequently Rs. 2 crores for 2015-2020 under College of Excellence scheme. Prof. N. S Rame Gowda mentioned the need for official communication with UGC on the halt of financial support to autonomous institutions.

Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas shared the observation that fees for Karnataka, non-Karnataka and foreign nationals have no much difference and suggested that the college can consider increasing the fees for foreign students with par with current standards. He added that the college should strive towards improving the foreign student diversity by attracting more students from neighboring countries like Sri Lanka and Nepal. On the query raised by Prof. N. S Rame Gowda on the status of programmes offered under community college, Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha clarified that the college is not offering community college programmes and instead offering job

oriented B.Voc programmes aligned with the regulations the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).

Decision: Approved

Agenda 7: Approval of the proposed Action Plan for the academic year 2024-25.

The principal enumerated and elaborated the following points:

- To start MBA(TH) Programme:
- To start the following UG specialized programmes:
 - BCA Cyber security
 - BCA Cloud computing
- To construct new building for Boys' Hostel
- To become an Institute of National Excellence and a Deemed to be University in the years to come.

Prof. N. S Rame Gowda enquired about the implications on becoming a State private university and a deemed-to-be university which are two different paths with potential opportunities. Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha elucidated that the college being an aided institution with the status of 2(f) and 12(B), makes it eligible for assistance and grants from the UGC based on the infrastructure, faculty, academic programmes and other relevant criteria. The prospect of aiming towards becoming a Deemed to be University is that the institution can continue to receive benefits from the government whereas the State Private Universities lose this privilege. Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas pointed out that status of Deemed to be University has far better possibilities of growth considering the academic perspective.

Decision: Approved

Agenda -8: Any other matter with the permission of the Chairman.

Ronald Prakash Cutinha informed that the institution is approaching the next cycle of the NAAC accreditation process, the outcome of which is very crucial as we are aspiring to become a Deemed to be University. He added that adapting to the new guidelines and regulations from NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) is challenging. However, the college is leveraging its strengths and progressing with the preparations for the accreditation process. Prof. N. S Rame Gowda and Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas reflected upon the high potential of the institution and the need for a focused comprehensive approach for enhancing its prospects for the future.

Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Date:

Principal
Principal
St. Philomena's College (Autonomous)
Bannimantap, Mysore-570 015